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 TITLE: **Rapamune** (RAPA, rapamycin, sirolimus): mechanism  
 of action immunosuppressive effect results from blockade  
 of signal transduction and inhibition of cell cycle  
 progression.  
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 AB OBJECTIVE: Rapamune is a novel immunosuppressive agent in Phase III  
 clinical trial in renal transplantation. Its unique mechanism of action  
 has created great interest in its use as a biochemical probe of signal  
 transduction pathways that has provided insight into its molecular  
 mechanism of action. This article reviews the current state of our  
 understanding of the mechanism of action of rapamune.